

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 231300Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LDUEHPCQ/AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES 0040

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BRASILIA 10907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT BR AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: BRAZILIAN ADMIRAL MENTIONS SOUTH ATLANTIC THREAT;

ESTADO CONTINUES ATTACK; FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES COMPLICATION

S;

JOURNALIST HINTS POSSIBLE POLICY SHIFT

REF: BRASILIA 10805

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL, NAVAL WAR SCHOOL (NWS) DIRECTOR EXPRESSED "JUSTIFIABLE DOUBTS" ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC AREAG ON RETURN FROM PARIS CIEC, FONMIN SILVEIRA EMPHASIZED GOVT-TO-GOVT NATURE OF RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, NOTED APPEARANCE OF CUBANS "AND OTHER FACTS" AROSE AFTER RECOGNITION, AND SAID HE EXAMIED ANGOLA SITUATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. IN CONTINUING
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ATTACK ON FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO

CITED STATEMENTS OF NWC DIRECTOR AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS ABOUT CONTINUATION OF COLD WAR AND ITS DANGERS. JOURNALIST COVERING MINISTRY REPORTED "SOME CIRCLES" THERE ADMITTING POSSIBILITY OF RE-EXAMINATION OF GOB POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING DECEMBER 18 AT GRADUATION CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL, NAVAL WAR SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ADMIRAL IBSEN DE GUSMAO CAMARA, DECLARED (ACCORDING TO VARIOUS PRESS ACCOUNTS): "EVEN IN TIMES OF PEACE, ONE IS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT NO OCCUPATION OF THE OCEAN COULD COME TO CONSTITUTE A REALITY IN DETRIMENT TO OUR SECURITY AND OUR MOST LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. WITH JUSTIFIABLE DOUBTS WE ARE WITNESSING TODAY THE APPEARANCE AND GRADUAL STRENGTHENING, IN THAT OCEANIC AREA CONTIGUOUS TO OUR TERRITORY, OF AERONAVAL FORCES AND SUPPORT INSTALLATIONS OPERATED BY A SUPERPOWER TRADITIONALLY ALIEN TO THE REFERRED TO GEOPOLITICAL SCENE."

2. ON RETURN FROM PARIS CIEC DECEMBER 20, FONMIN SILVEIRA WAS REPORTED AS DENYING HE COMMENTED ON ANGOLA WHILE IN PARIS (REFTEL), AND WAS QUOTED AS EXPLAINING THAT BRAZIL MAINTAINS "GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT" RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AS IT DID BEFORE INDEPENDENCE: "WHEN THERE AROSE THE DIVISION AMONG THE GROUPS WHICH COMPOSED THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, WE CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND NONE OF THOSE GROUPS ASKED THAT WE LEAVE THE COUNTRY. ANGOLA WAS RECOGNIZED BY ALL PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR US NOT TO DO SO." ACCOUNT SAID SILVEIRA "REVEALED HE EXAMINED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION" WITH SEC'Y KISSINGER "WITHOUT HESITATION BECAUSE 'WE HAVE NO PROHIBITED SUBJECTS' (BETWEEN US)". SILVEIRA WAS ALSO QUOTED AS NOTING THAT "THE APPEARANCE OF CUBANS, AND OTHER FACTS WHICH ARE BEING POINTED OUT NOW, CAME UP AFTERWARDS. BUT ALL THAT CANNOT BE SIMPLIFIED IN A SLOGAN. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S DECLARATION WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGED WITH DELIBERATION." (WE NOTE ALSO THAT IN DISCUSSION OF CIEC MEETING, SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY SAID BRAZIL'S POSITION IS MATURE ENOUGH THAT OTHERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND WE ARE NOT ATTACKING ANYONE. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT BRAZIL IS NO LONGER ANYONE'S SACRISTAN.") UNCLASSIFIED

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3. IN LEAD EDITORIALS DEC. 20 AND 21, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CONTINUED ITS ATTACK. CITING ABOVE-MENTIONED REMARKS OF ADMIRAL GUSMAO AND OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS BY ARMY AND AIR FORCE GENERALS ABOUT CONTINUATION OF COLD WAR AND ITS DANGERS, AND CONTRASTING THAT POSITION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S, EDITORIALS ASKED RHETORICALLY WHO IS DETERMINING BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY. CONCLUDED SECOND EDITORIAL, "THE COINCIDENCE

OF OUR POINTS OF VIEW WITH THOSE OF THE ARMED FORCES DOESN'T
CEASE TO COMFORT US AND INFUSE CONFIDENCE REGARDING THE FINAL
COURSE OF THE COUNTRY."

4. FOLLOWING DAY (DEC 22), IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRASIL'S
FOREIGN MINISTRY CORRESPONDENT CITED "SOME CIRCLES" IN
MINISTRY AS ADMITTING THAT GROWING SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVE-
MENT IN ANGOLA COULD "BRING BRAZIL TO A RE-EXAMINATION OF
ITS CURRENT POSITION" DESPITE POSSIBLE COSTS TO POLICY OF
IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NEW AFRICAN STATES. ARTICLE SAID
GOOD-FAITH GESTURE IN KEEPING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN
ANGOLA (THUS DEMONSTRATING INDEPENDENCE OF US) HAD BEEN
FOLLOWED BY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH QUICKLY BROUGHT MIGCISTRY TO
"A SITUATION OF PERPLEXITY AND EMBARRASSMENT." JORNAL DAY
BEFORE EDITORIALIZED THAT BRAZIL REMAINS "OUT OF FOCUS
REGARDING GRAVE INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, WHILE THE CRISES
FLOWING FROM THEM COME EVER CLOSER TO OUR DOORS."
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